

## Around

### CENTRAL ISLIP Community meeting on revitalization plan

The public can weigh in on how Islip will spend \$10 million meant to revitalize a stretch of Central Islip, town officials said.

A community workshop is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday at the Central Islip Senior High School cafeteria, officials said in a statement Friday. The school is at 85 Wheeler Rd. in Central Islip.

Residents can also learn about the initiative and submit proposals based on criteria available at [townofislip-ny.gov/dri](http://townofislip-ny.gov/dri). More information on how to submit a proposal is available by clicking on the Call for Projects Form link at the bottom of the web page.

Central Islip was the recipient of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's third annual 2018 Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant. A committee composed of town representatives and community leaders is working with HR&A Advisors Inc., a consulting firm in New York City. The consulting firm will be paid \$300,000 by the state.

The grant will go toward development and rehabilitation projects to refurbish the Carleton Avenue corridor, from the Central Islip Long Island Rail Road station south to Smith Street. — ANTONIO PLANAS

### NEW HYDE PARK Online survey will guide village museum

Leaders of the New Hyde Park Museum want to open the facility to the public for set times and days and are looking to residents to determine the new hours of operation.

The museum has created an online survey for residents to select ideal times and days. The survey is at [nwsdy.li/NHPM](http://nwsdy.li/NHPM).

The museum is staffed by two village volunteers who are collecting family keepsakes and using the trinkets as exhibits that tell New Hyde Park's history. The museum, on the second floor of village hall on Jericho Turnpike, is currently available by appointment only.

For questions about the museum's new hours, residents can contact Carol Nowakowski



BARRY SLOAN

### A dose of DIY spring in a tabletop garden

**ROCKVILLE CENTRE.** Rachel Song, owner of Modern Terrarium Bar in Rockville Centre, assembles a terrarium Tuesday at her shop on South Park Avenue, where individuals and groups can build their own botanical worlds inside glass walls.

at 516-515-1837 or [nhpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:nhpmuseum@gmail.com).

— KRISTOPHER J. BROOKS

### BROOKHAVEN TOWN Positive feedback on proposed budget

Brookhaven officials last week heard few complaints about their proposed 2019 town budget.

Three residents who spoke at a public hearing Thursday praised the \$302.4 million spending plan, which town officials said includes a "minimal" tax increase within the state's 2 percent tax levy cap.

Brookhaven officials said the budget would reduce debt and maintain services while adding to reserve funds for snow removal and the eventual closure of the town landfill.

Jeff Kagan of Farmingville said the town had proposed "a

nice budget," but he warned of possible future cost increases.

"You have questionable recycling payments coming in," he said, referring to potential changes in the town recycling program, which recently lost its operator, Green Stream Recycling, due to declining recyclables markets. "We do need to make sure we cover all our bases."

George Hoffman, a consultant and trustee of the independent Setauket Harbor Task Force, complimented town officials for their budget preparation.

"As a citizen, I found it really easy to read and transparent," Hoffman said. "I wanted to say, keep up the good work."

Suzanne Johnson of Rocky Point thanked officials for addressing a budget issue concerning the hamlet's fire district.

The town board plans to vote on the budget at a meeting at 5 p.m. Tuesday at

Brookhaven Town Hall, 1 Independence Hill, Farmingville.

— CARL MACGOWAN

### RIVERHEAD TOWN Comment sought on block grant projects

Riverhead residents will have the chance at the next town board regular meeting Tuesday to weigh in on funding for community projects and a proposal to convert a home on Main Road in Aquebogue into a professional office.

Two public hearings will be held at the meeting. One will hear recommendations for which projects should receive part of \$200,000 in federal Community Development Block Grants town officials are expecting to receive in April 2019. Examples of eligible activities include housing rehabilitation, street improvements, public service activities, neighborhood improvement programs and

eliminating physical barriers for residents with disabilities, according to the town's announcement of the hearing.

The board in August of this year approved using \$144,578 in block grant funding for fiscal 2017 to finance grants for home improvements, community awareness, parking improvements and various local charity organizations such as the local homeless shelter Maureen's Haven.

Another hearing will take public comments on a proposal to convert a home on a 0.33-acre parcel on Main Road in Aquebogue into a professional office. The land is within Riverhead's Agricultural Protection zoning use district. Under the town code, buildings can be used as professional office space in that zoning district, but only if the town board grants a special use permit.

The meeting takes place at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

— JEAN-PAUL SALAMANCA